



***United States Attorney
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**IMMIGRATION SUPERVISOR PLEADS GUILTY IN
MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO FRAUD**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that LORETTA WILHITE, a Supervisory District Adjudications Officer, employed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge GEORGE B. DANIELS to a fraudulent scheme to enable an alien to obtain lawful permanent residency status, commonly known as obtaining a "green card."

According to the charging documents, WILHITE, as a Supervisory District Adjudications Officer, supervised several District Adjudications Officers at CIS in New York City (CIS/New York). In July 2004, WILHITE requisitioned the file of an alien whose application had been denied by the CIS office in Kentucky (CIS/Kentucky). Documents in the alien's original file reflecting the denial by CIS/Kentucky had been altered with what appeared to be correction fluid and then stamped "approved" using an official CIS stamp assigned exclusively to one of WILHITE's subordinates. This CIS employee was on extended leave at the time and had since been transferred to CIS's headquarters.

According to the charging documents, WILHITE supervised several District Adjudications Officers at CIS in New York City (CIS/New York). In or about July 2004, WILHITE requisitioned the file of an alien whose application had been denied by the CIS office in Kentucky (CIS/Kentucky).

According to the charging documents, federal agents executed a search warrant at WILHITE's office and recovered the stamp. WILHITE was interviewed by agents and admitted that she "whited out" the denial entries on the alien's file and stamped "approved" on documents in the file knowing that the alien should

not have been approved for a green card. WILHITE further admitted that she removed and shredded the original denial letter issued by CIS/Kentucky.

WILHITE, 52, resides in Brooklyn.

WILHITE pleaded guilty to a two-count Indictment, both counts charging her with making false statements. Each count carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. WILHITE is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge DANIELS on December 14, 2006.

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